



H.Res. 413 - Recognizing the service of United States Merchant Marine veterans

Floor Situation

H.Res. 413 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) on May 17, 2007. The bill has not been considered by any Committee in the 110th Congress.

H.Res. 413 is expected to be considered on the floor on May 22, 2007.

Summary

H.Res. 413 resolves that on National Maritime Day, the House of Representatives recognizes the heroic and invaluable sacrifices that the United States Merchant Marine veterans have made to help ensure our Nation's prosperity and safety.

Background

The United States Merchant Marine was founded in 1775 and served as the Nation's first Navy helping George Washington's Continental Army defeat the British Navy. After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, 29 United States Merchant Marine Academy cadets operated a fleet of boats in New York Harbor, transporting firefighters and other emergency equipment workers, medical supplies, and food.

Today, more than 8,000 Merchant Mariners serve in the Military Sealift Command, most of them working in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The United States Merchant Marine Academy is the only one of the five service academies that sends its cadets into war, and 142 undergraduates of the Academy were lost during World War II.

During World War II, Merchant Mariners served honorably in combat but were denied veterans benefits and recognition at the end of the war despite sustaining the highest rate of casualties of any of the armed services. More than 95 percent of the Allied Forces and material that was transported during World War II was transported by Merchant Marine ships. It was not until 1988 that the Merchant Mariners of World War II were given veteran status, and by that time, over 125,000 of those Merchant Mariners had died and many had lost the opportunity to receive benefits.

Cost

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not scored this bill.

Staff Contact

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